Start of Eve Metz Collection

AR 11892

Sys #: 000358826

LEO BAECK INSTITUTE
Center for Jewish History
15 West 16th Street
New York, NY 10011

Phone: (212) 744-6400
Fax: (212) 988-1305
Email: lbaeck@lbi.cjh.org
URL: http://www.lbi.org

AR 11892 VI

Eve Metz Collection, 2004

5156

THE AUSTRIAN HERITAGE COLLECTION AT THE LEO BAECK INSTITUTE

AUSTRIAN-JEWISH IMMIGRANTS IN THE USA

LEO BAECK INSTITUTE: 15 WEST 16TH STREET, 4TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, NY 10011, TEL (212) 744 - 6400

Name: EVE (First Name) B (Middle Name) METZ (Last Name)

[redacted]

Occupation in US: ART DIR - BOOK DESIGN *(before retirement)*

Date of Birth: 7 (Month) 24 (Day) 1923 (Year) **Place of Birth:** VIENNA (City) AUSTRIA (Country)

Prewar Address: WEINARA ST (Street) XVIII (District, if in Vienna) VIENNA (City) AUSTRIA (Country)

Prewar Name: EVA METSINGER **Maiden Name:** EVA SINGER

1. Education/Occupation(s) *(please if possible, indicate institutions and year when entered/left)*
HIGH SCHOOL / NYC ART SCHOOL / NYC

2. Were you affiliated with any kind of organization (Youth, Zionist, Political, etc.)? If so, did you have any specific function?
NO

3. Were you arrested and/or interned? *(please indicate where and when)*
NO

4. What was your route of emigration? *(please indicate places and dates of stay)*
1940 - VIENNA TO TRIEST, ITALY — SS SATURNIA (LAST TRIP TO USA)
ELLIS ISLAND - 14 DAYS — NYC

5. May we contact you again with a more detailed follow-up questionnaire? *(please circle)* **Yes / No**

6. Do you have any documents, such as photographs, letters, diaries, all kinds of manuscripts, etc., that would be appropriate for the archives of the LBI? **Yes / No** ?

If necessary please use additional sheets. Thank you!

THE AUSTRIAN HERITAGE COLLECTION AT THE LEO BAECK INSTITUTE

AUSTRIAN-JEWISH IMMIGRANTS IN THE USA

LEO BAECK INSTITUTE: 15 WEST 16TH STREET, 4TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, NY 10011, TEL (212) 744 - 6400

We kindly ask you to answer the following questions in as much detail as possible, either in English or in German. If you need more space, please feel free to use additional sheets. If you don't know the answer to certain questions or don't want to answer for any reason, just go on to the next question.

NAME: EVE B METZ NEE SINGER **DATE:** 2/16/04

800 West End Ave, New York NY 10025 212-866 7114

1. BEFORE MARCH 1938

1.1 Please describe your parental home.
(Did you live in an apartment or in a house? How many people lived there with you? Did you have servants? What language(s) were spoken in the household?)

We lived in an apartment – My parents, my brothers(e) and I
we had a maid always – + child care sometimes
We spoke Viennese

1.2 Please tell us about your neighborhood (District in Vienna or area).
(What ethnic groups lived there? Religious life? Relationships between Jews and non-Jews? Relationships with neighbors?)

We lived in the XVIII – It was a mixed neighborhood –
some Jews. My parents were observant Jews but not
orthodox. We attended services on Friday, some times
on Saturday + holidays

1.3 What religious tradition existed in your family?
(Did you keep kosher, go to synagogue, observe holidays, etc.?)

See previous answer

1.4 Please, tell us about your friends and acquaintances ?
(Were they mostly Jewish or non-Jewish? Did you have any close non-Jewish friends?)

I was only 12 when we left some of my school friends were non Jewish.
We lived a family life very close. Went away to camp in the summer traveled without our parents

1.5 Were you affiliated with any political, social or religious organization?
(Youth Organizations, Zionist Organizations, Political Parties, other organizations)
If so, did you have any specific function?

I was 12

1.6 Did you or your family encounter any anti-Semitism in Austria before March 1938?
(If so, please give details.)

no

1.7 What was your/ your family's reaction to Hitler's rise to power in Germany in 1933 and to Nazi activity in Austria in the early thirties? Did you/ they feel threatened by these events?

I heard my parents speak about Germany + the Nazi activity. My father did not believe that anything would happen to us – He was born in Vienna, served in the army in the war. He was a judge in a tribunal + had very good relations with the people who worked for him – who were mostly non jews

2. FROM MARCH 1938 TO EMIGRATION - FROM EUROPE TO AMERICA

2.1 How was your time spent during and after the "Anschluss"? What was the impact of the "Anschluss" on you personally?
(Were you expelled from school/university? Did you or somebody in your family lose your/ their jobs? Were your apartments/houses looted? Were you (or members of your family) persecuted? Were you/ they forced to scrub the streets?)

After the anschluss I went to a "jew school" I enclose a Xerox of my report card. We were not allowed on the trolley car — so I had a long walk + it was a cold winter. My father had sent my 2 brothers to stay with relatives in London. He gave them some gold rings. The jeweler was a jew. They accused my father of smuggling money + took him to the police station + he was put in a cattle car presumably to go to Dachau. They came to our apartment + broke furniture etc.
My father was saved by his factory manager who went to the SS + told them they could not work without my father. The man they had put in charge of the factory knew nothing about the work + the Germans thought it was important to them

2.2 How did non-Jewish friends, colleagues, schoolmates, neighbors, etc. behave toward you and your family?

The manager was very good to us. He + my mother were taken to the railroad station — My father's name was called — He thought he would be shot. But he was told to go back to the factory + work. ~~He~~ They wanted They took away our passports + all the money + property my parents had.
We ended up with several people living in our apartment Some stayed until they could go to another safe place

2.3 Could you please decribe your recollections of November 9th, 1938, the so-called „Reichs-Kristallnacht" (in case you still were in Austria at that time)

Kristallnacht was just after my father was arrested + we were very frightened

2.4 Were you or any members of your family arrested? Sent to a camp?
(If so, please give details.)

2.5 Can you recall the process of obtaining papers necessary for emigration?
(Did you try to obtain visas for other countries as well? Were you supported by any relief organization, by relatives or friends?)

We had visas to go to England – our relatives helped – but we couldn't go there since we had no passports. We had applied for American visa – which we got but had to wait until my father manage to get our passports + exit permit

2.6 What happened to your (or your family's) apartments, houses, businesses and other property?

All the property - apartment, mortgages on other houses, insurance + money were taken - The business - a factory that did printing (very fine) + paper conversing was taken away (eventually the machinery went to Germany so they Austrians said it was not theirs so could not recompense us

2.7 When did you leave Austria? (Please indicate exact date, if possible)

We left ~~Vienna~~ Vienna April 14 or 15th 1940 by train to Trieste. There we were able to get on an Italian ship (the SS Saturnia) on her last trip to the USA. (She never went back) We rode in total black out we were very crowded on the boat - with terrible food - but we made it to NY

2.8 If you did not emigrate directly to the U.S, where did you go first?
(How long did you stay there? Can you give a brief description of your experiences? Was there an immediate reason - apart from the general threat - for your emigration?)

We arrived in New York harbor on May 1 1940 an immigration officer decided that my father was senile + we spent 14 days on Ellis Island until we were able to find people who were able to post a bond for us

3. THE UNITED STATES

3.1 When did you arrive in the U.S.? (Please indicate exact date, if possible)

We arrived in the USA May 1, 1940 + spent 2 weeks in Ellis Island

3.2 Did members of your family emigrate to countries other than the U.S.? (If so, where? Where do they live today? Are you still in contact with them?)

My 2 brothers spent all the war years in England — One of them still lives in London — the other emigrated to the USA in 1951

3.3 Did you serve in the U.S. Armed Forces or in any other allied army? (If so, when did you join? What division? What was your area of operation? When were you discharged?)

I was only 13

3.4 Please list places and dates of residence in the U.S.
(City, State; in bigger cities, neighborhood)

he lived in Brooklyn + then in Manhattan

3.5 Please describe your occupational situation after your arrival in the U.S.

My father was so exhausted by what he went through to get us out - he had a heart attack. My mother went to work in a sweatshop making childrens clothes.

After several years my father got a partner ship in a restaurant.

3.6 Did you belong to any emigrant/immigrant-related organization or cultural association? (e.g. Austrian American Federation, Austrian Forum, etc.? If so, since when?)

NO

3.7 Do you still speak German in the USA? If so, with whom and when? How often?

As long as my parents were alive we spoke in German — Although when we first came here I was not allowed to speak German — My mother went to night school + got a certificate that she spoke English

3.8 Would you call yourself religious? To what degree? What is your affiliation? Did it change?
(Do you keep kosher, go to synagogue, observe the holidays,...?)

I feel religious but I do not observe or go to synagogue

3.9 Were your friends and acquaintances mostly German-speaking or non-German-speaking? Mainly Jewish or not?

I went to New York School + most of my friends were non jewish. My parents friends were mostly German speaking + Jewish refugees.

3.10 Of what country (countries) are you a citizen? When was each citizenship granted?

USA.
When my father became an American citizen he took me before a judge + I got my papers on March 8th 1946

3.11 Have you ever visited Austria after the war? If so, how often?
(What did you do there? Can you recall some of your impressions during these visits? Have you ever thought of going back permanently?)

My husband + I visited Vienna twice — once — after the Russians left and again when we both retired from working we were tourists - went to museums + concerts I never considered going back permanently

4. PARTICIPATION IN OTHER ORAL HISTORY PROJECTS

4.1 Have you ever been interviewed by any other organization?
(If yes, please indicate when and by which organization?)

NO

4.2 Have you ever been mentioned in any historical works?
(Holocaust-related literature, Documentary films, Exhibitions etc.)

NO

5. FAMILY MEMBERS

5.1 **Spouse** (Name, Maiden Name, Place/date of birth [if deceased, place/date of death], Occupation[s])

My husband was born in the USA. NY C
he both worked in publishing in NY C
as art directors

5.2 **Mother** (Name, Maiden Name, Place/date of birth [if deceased, place/date of death], Occupation[s])

My mothers maiden name ws Awa Nuckern
She was born in Viema in ~~1895~~ 1892
She died in 1958

5.3 **Father** (Name, Place/date of birth [if deceased, place/date of death], Occupation[s])

My fathers name was Julius Singer - He was born
in Viema in 1875. He ran a factory that did
fine printing + paper converting.
In New York he ran a Viemese Restaurant

5.4 **Siblings** (Name, Maiden Name, Place/date of birth [if deceased, place/date of death], Occupation[s])

Siegfried Singer born in Viema Sept 21 1921
Adolf Singer Viema Sept 3 1924
Fritz Hodder still lives in London he was involved
in women clothing
Dolf studied to become a physician surgeon in Lond
then came to the US

5.5 **Children** (Name, Maiden Name, Address [City, State, Country], Place/date of birth [if deceased, place/date of death], Occupation[s])

Julie Anna Metz, June 22, 1959 – she is a graphics designer lives in Cold Springs NY –
Simon David Metz – May 23 1961 – manages in computer programming

5.6 **Grandparents** (Name, Maiden Name, Place/date of birth, place/date of death, Occupation[s])

My Mothers father's name was Isidore Nachtern
My Mothers mother's name was Eva Nachtern
my Fathers father's name was Simon Singer
my Fathers mother's name was Bertha Singer

The Austrian Heritage Collection is always looking for people to interview.

If you know any Austrian-Jewish immigrants in the US who might be interested in participating in this project, please either ask them to contact us or write their addresses below.

Thank you very much for participating in this project.

Öffentliche Hauptschule für Mädchen in Wien:
VIII. Bezirk, Albertgasse 52

Deutsches Reich.
Stadt Wien.

Zahl: 26
Schuljahr: 19 39/40

Schule für jüdische Kinder.

Halbjahrsausweis.

für Singer Eva Sara, geboren am 24. Juli 1928
in Wien im Deutschen Reich, Religion —,
Schülerin der ersten Klasse, im Schuljahr 19 39/40.

Führung u. Mitarbeit ~~Betragen~~: sehr gut / sehr gut
~~Fleiß~~: —

Lehrgegenstände		Leistungen
A. Verbindliche Lehrgegenstände.		
Leibeserziehung		—
Deutsche Sprache		sehr gut
Geschichte		gut
Erdkunde		sehr gut
Naturgeschichte		sehr gut
Naturlehre		gut
Rechnen, Raumlehre und Geometr. Zeichnen		gut
Freihandzeichnen		gut
Schreiben		gut
Handarbeit		sehr gut
Gesang		—
Religion		—
B. Nichtverbindliche Lehrgegenstände.		
Sprache		—
Äußere Form der Arbeiten		sehr gut
Zahl der versäumten Schultage	entschuldigt	4
	nicht entschuldigt	—

Wien, am 10. Februar 1940

Prof. Dr. Goldstein
Direktor.

Stempel: Israelitische Kultus- und Unterrichtsanstalt Wien 8 Schulkegelgasse 52

Prof. Frieda Sara Israel
Klassenvorstand.

Schuldruckforte IV d/9 b. — Elbemühl, 13. 1. 1939.

Die Schülerin wird laut Konferenzbeschluß vom _____ auf die _____

Schulstufe der allgemeinen vierklassigen Volksschule mit Abschlußklassensystem versetzt.

Am 4. März 1940 wegen Übersiedlung nach U. S. A.

abgemeldet. Besuch der Volksschule seit 16. September 1934, der Hauptschule seit 29. September 1938, hier eingetreten am 29. September 1938.

Lernmittelbezug: ~~ja,~~ nein. Unfallversichert: ~~ja,~~ nein. Abmeldung vom Religionsunterricht (von den relig. Übungen): ~~ja,~~ nein.

Wien, am 4 März 1940 Schulsiegel. Prof. Max Dr. Eglsteiner
Direktor.

Führung und Mitarbeit:	sehr zufriedenstellend	zufriedenstellend
	minder gut	[illegible]
Fortgang:	sehr gut	[illegible]
	ausreichend	[illegible]

Notenreihe:

Betragen:	sehr gut	gut	entsprechend	nicht entsprechend
Fleiß, Leistungen und Äußere Form der Arbeiten:	sehr gut	gut	genügend	nicht genügend

End of Eve Metz Collection